

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lawrence, John P., Plantation
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 1700 N/A not for publication
city, town Grissom X vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27522

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville
County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair, Jr.
Signature of certifying official

6-14-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Nestled on a rise behind a grove of trees, with all its outbuildings but one stretched to its rear, the John P. Lawrence Plantation is the most pristinely preserved former plantation seat in Granville County. Its Greek Revival style facade and interior, which still displays exceptional marbled woodwork, are virtually unaltered, and its plantation and bright leaf era outbuildings are unusually early and handsome, including a rare hipped roof antebellum kitchen and smokehouse, a one-room schoolhouse and a gambrel roofed stable.

Built on a T-plan, two stories high and three-bays wide over a finished, brick-walled basement, Lawrence's heavy timber frame dwelling is one of the county's largest. Its six-over-six windows and two-panel doors, as well as the sidelights and transom of its centered front entry, are all framed by crossetted surrounds. Sided with beaded weatherboards and accented by fluted cornerposts and three exterior brick chimneys, it is topped, front and rear, by low hipped roofs. A hipped roof also tops its one-story front porch, which retains its original fluted squared columns, octagonal handrails and thin vertical stiles. Similarly finished, but with unfluted columns, its two one-story side porches are also original.

Entering either of the two transverse hallways, particularly the stair hall set perpendicular to its centered forward mate, the house's fine, Greek Revival style woodwork is strikingly apparent. The illusion of marble holds up to all but the closest inspection of the marbled stair risers and ends and baseboards of the back hall. Thought perhaps to once have been used elsewhere in the house as well, this exceptional marbleizing is now found outside of the stair hall only at the back upstairs bedroom, which retains a similarly finished mantel.

Fluted surrounds with bull's-eye cornerblocks enframing two-panel doors adorn the stair hall, the front hall and the east front room. The back bedroom is similarly finished, but without the intermediary of cornerblocks separating its plain mitered surrounds. The west front parlor has the most ornate woodwork of the downstairs rooms. In addition to sharing the same doors and tall molded baseboards, its fluted surrounds and mantel are enframed by raised crossettes. This use of crossettes only at the finest room of a house is repeated at a number of other two-story antebellum residences in the county.

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Stylish Greek Revival finish was not limited to the exterior and the first floor rooms. The upstairs rooms have flat-angled Greek Revival style moldings, two-panel doors and simple post and lintel mantels. Even the doors of the basement utilize the popular two-panel motif. Its dirt floor now covered with cement, the basement still retains, at its back room, the house's kitchen and dining room.

The former plantation has 7 contributing resources (5 buildings, 1 site and 1 structure) and 2 non-contributing resources (1 building and 1 structure). The Greek Revival style was extended to the house's ["A" on attached sketch map] two domestic outbuildings, both contributing buildings, surviving from the plantation era - the smokehouse [C] and the detached kitchen [B]. A large, pegged structure topped by a low hip roof and pierced by a central chimney, the kitchen has beaded weatherboards and doors set in simple, raised, rectilinear surrounds. Its hearth retains its attached iron pot hooks. The smokehouse to the kitchen's west is similarly finished, although it lacks a chimney, its preserving fires apparently once lit on its salt-softened, wooden floor. The only outbuilding to the house's fore is the property's most unusual. A small, frame, gable end, contributing structure raised in the last third of the nineteenth century, it once served as a private one-room schoolhouse [H]. Turn of the century, bright leaf era outbuildings standing to the house's rear include a contributing frame corn crib [F] and large, gambrel roof stable [E], and a non-contributing chicken house [D] and packhouse [G], both less than 25 years old.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1840s-1937

Significant Dates

1840s

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rising from a grove of trees on land that historically nourished its tobacco and other crops, the John P. Lawrence Plantation house and its contributing outbuildings are significant as exemplars of the finest in Greek Revival style design and workmanship in the county and of the way of life of the county's wealthy planters and succeeding successful bright leaf growers. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865, and associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Virtually unaltered, its exterior and interior read like a primer on the Greek Revival style in the county. Crossetted surrounds, fluted corner and porch posts, and low hipped roofs adorn the exterior, and the full array of common Greek Revival style features mark the interior as well. Fluted surrounds with bull's-eye cornerblocks, two-panel doors, molded baseboards, post and lintel mantels, parlor crossettes and an exceptional marbleized stair finish the downstairs rooms. Upstairs, two-panel doors are enframed by flat-angled moldings - a common secondary upstairs treatment in the county - and post and lintel mantels frame the hearths, that of the back bedroom marbleized like the transverse stair hall below. Even the brick-walled basement retains its two-panel doors.

Two antebellum, Greek Revival style outbuildings - a smokehouse and kitchen - stand to the rear, unusually finely finished with beaded weatherboards, low hipped roofs and raised rectilinear surrounds. They are flanked by contributing bright leaf era outbuildings that include a frame corn crib and large gambrel roof barn, as well as a non-contributing chicken house and packhouse. (See associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) To the house's fore, amidst its gracious grove of trees, stands the property's most unusual outbuilding, which dates from the last third of the nineteenth century, a contributing, one-room, private schoolhouse that has few mates in the county. Its nailed, relatively slender timbers suggest it was built after the Civil War, it is known to have ^{been} used as a schoolhouse in the late nineteenth century. [1] The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

The plantation seat was built by John P. (1806-1887) and Frances Lawrence (1809-1864) [2], probably in the 1840s judging

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by its structure and style and Lawrence's age and position as a prosperous planter by that decade. Inexact property descriptions make it impossible to determine whether the house was built on part of the 605 acre land grant that the Lawrence family purchased from Earl Granville in 1756 [Deed Book C, Page 179] or on one of four tracts of land acquired by John P. Lawrence in the 1830s [Deed Book 4, Page 289 (1830); Deed Book 5, Page 165 (1831); Deed Book 8, Page 271 (1837); Deed Book 10, Page 157 (1839)]. Its size and finish reflect Lawrences' position in Granville County's planter society. Though not a big slave holder according to the federal census - he owned six slaves in 1840, 11 in 1850 and 13 housed in two dwellings in 1860 - he was a large property owner; the 1843 county tax list reports him owning 550 acres of land. The plantation has never left the family. The Lawrences passed it on to their daughter and son-in-law, Virginia (1846-1934) and Lewis H. Moss (1842-1909), who in turn transferred it to their daughter and son-in-law, Lillian (1882-1965) and Edward Thomas Husketh, Sr. (1862-1935). The property is now owned by Robinette Husketh, the widow of their son, Benjamin. [3]

[1] Interviews with Robinette Husketh, March and June, 1987. She was told by Dr. Ben Lawrence (a cousin of her husband Benjamin) that his mother, Ellen (Parker) Lawrence, had taught school in the building in the late nineteenth century.

[2] Interview with Robinette Husketh, March, 1987. A few pieces of John P. and Frances Lawrence's furniture still furnish the house.

[3] Interview with Robinette Husketh, March, 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hays, Francis B. Unpublished collection of 135 scrapbooks on Granville County history located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Alma Husketh, October, 1986, and Robinette Husketh, March, 1987.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 8.5 acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/18/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	716780	39 99440
B	17	716680	39 99440
C	17	716690	39 99080
D	17	716820	39 99140
E	17	716820	39 99350
F	17	716780	39 99350

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 716780 3999440 on the USGS polygon, where the fence line turns west, continuing in a straight line approximately 350 feet to point B: 17 716680 3999440 on the polygon, where the fence line turns south. Continuing in a straight line south approximately 1000 feet, following the fence line, farm lane, and line of trees to point C: 17 716690 3999080 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1700. Continuing along the north side of State Road 1700 approximately 450 feet to point D: 17 716820 39 99140 on the polygon. Continuing in a straight line north approximately 575 feet, to the east of the stable, to point E: 17 716820 3999350 on the polygon, approximately 100 feet to the east of the southern end of the fence line. Continuing in a straight line east approximately 100 feet to point F: 17 716780 39 99350 on the polygon, at the southeast end of the fence line. Continuing in a straight line north approximately 325 feet, along the fence line, to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 8.5 acres that include the dwelling, outbuildings, and fields that are historically associated with

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the property, maintain historic integrity and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining acreage has been excluded because of intruding structures or because the land is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house.

The northern boundary from UTM points A to B includes the field and outbuildings to its south and east and excludes property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house to its north. The western boundary from UTM points B to C includes the dwelling and outbuildings to its east and excludes property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points C to D includes the house and outbuildings to its north and excludes property that falls outside of the owner's property line to its south. The eastern boundary from UTM points D to E, E to F and F to A includes the dwelling, outbuildings and fields to its west and excludes several metal-sided tobacco barns built within the last fifty years to its east.

Brassfield Baptist Church.

Granville County, N.C.

Quad: Grissom, N.C.

Scale 1:24,000

A: 17 718260 3999240

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF NC
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RALEIGH, NC

5256 11 NW
(STEM)

78°37'30"
36°07'30"

714000m.E

715

716

717

35'

718

OXFORD TO MI
WILKES TO MI

719

525
(W)

400000m.N.

JOHN P. LAWRENCE
PLANTATION
QUAD: GRISSEM
SCALE: 1:24,000

A 17/3999440 716780

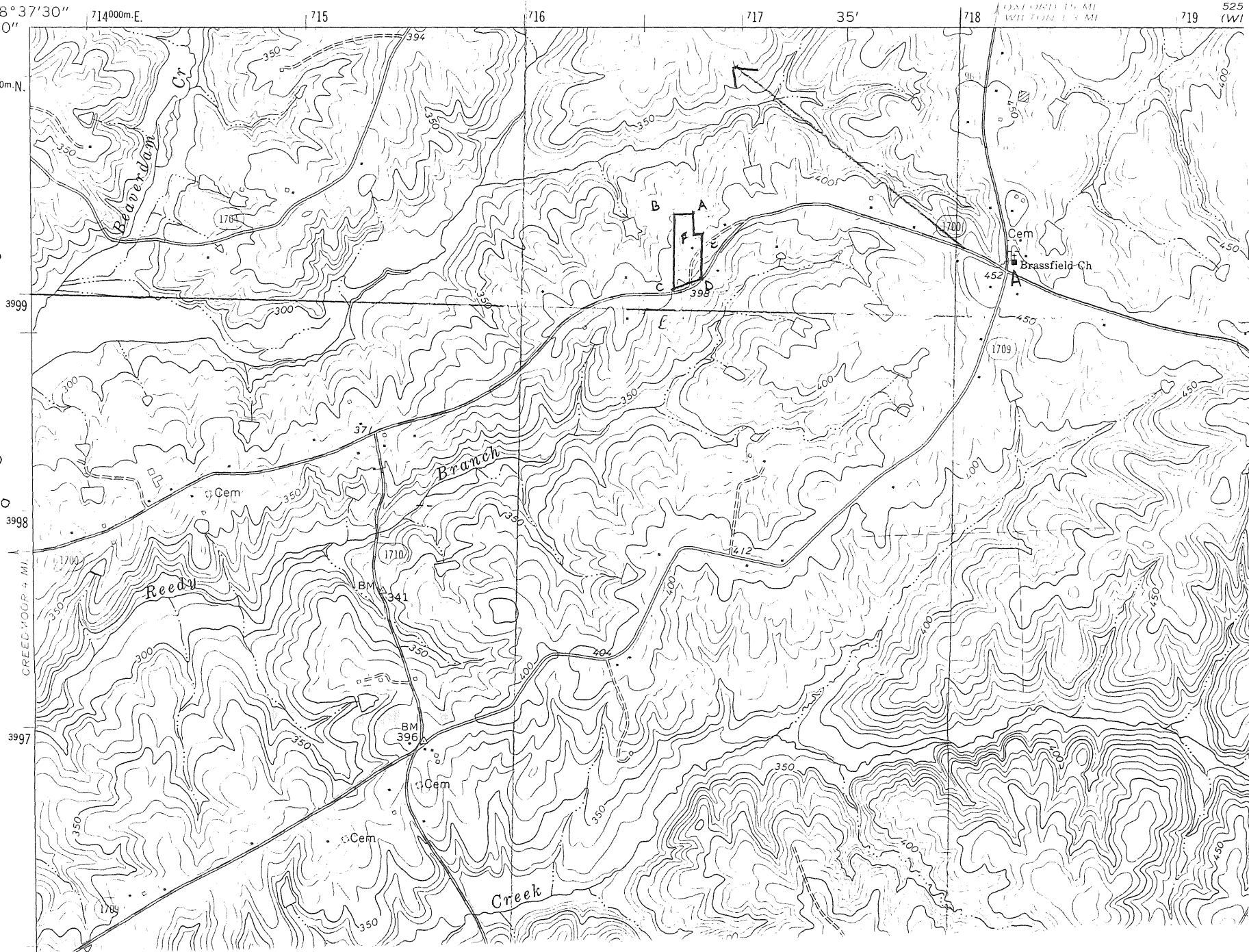
B 17/3999440 716680

C 17/3999080 716680

D 17/3999140 716820

E 17/3999350 716820

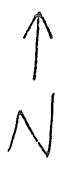
F 17/3999350 716780



FENCE LINE

Approx scale 1" = 100'
Approx 8.5 acres

JOHN P. LAWRENCE PLANTATION Granville County, NC



Contributing Buildings:

- A - House
- B - Antebellum, hip roofed, beaded weatherboarded, mortise and tenon kitchen
- C - Antebellum, hip roofed, beaded weatherboarded, mortise and tenon smokehouse
- E - Turn of the century, bright leaf era, frame, gambrel roofed stable
- H - Late nineteenth century, bright leaf era, gable roof, one-room schoolhouse

Contributing Site:

Fields and grounds

Contributing Structure:

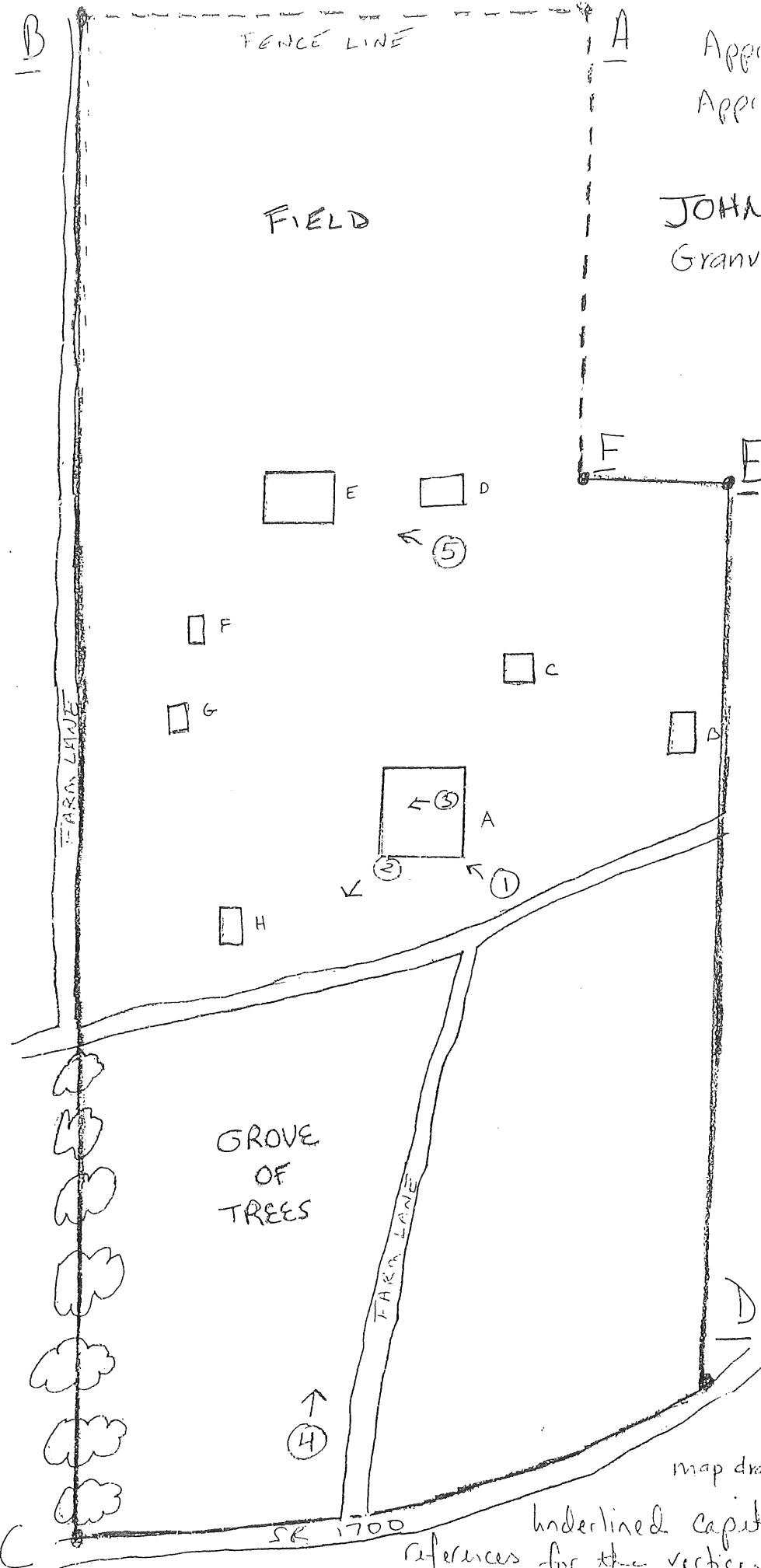
- F - Turn of the century, bright leaf era corner crib

Non-Contributing Building:

- D - Mid twentieth century, frame and metal packhouse

Non-contributing Structures:

- G - Mid twentieth century, frame and metal chicken house



map drawn by Patricia Esperon, April, 1987

Underlined capital letters represent the UTM references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying USGS map.

